Car bomb attack kills 20 outside US base in Baghdad

US firm targets corporate cynics



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Del Rosario, Granger win Singapore tourney
  SPORTS / A26
- SC ruling on Meralco alarms foreign investors
  BUSINESS / B1
- Doc claims human cloning
  WORLD / A10

Monday, January 19, 2004 • 42 pages

Enrile says FPJ can be the new Marcos

Opposition plans to revive 'Solid North'



MARDI GRAS WIND-UP

Pope's help sought to stop executions

K-4 candidates get actin' tips during cocktails

Amina banks on old family network, FPJ



FPJ paid less income tax in '02 after fall in earnings

Car bomb kills 20 outside US base in Baghdad



WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Palace shrugs off US advisory

[illegible]



Drilon says Marcos victims will be paid

[illegible]

DFA set for manual vote, but needs more men

[illegible]

Cory calls for prayers, not 'magic'

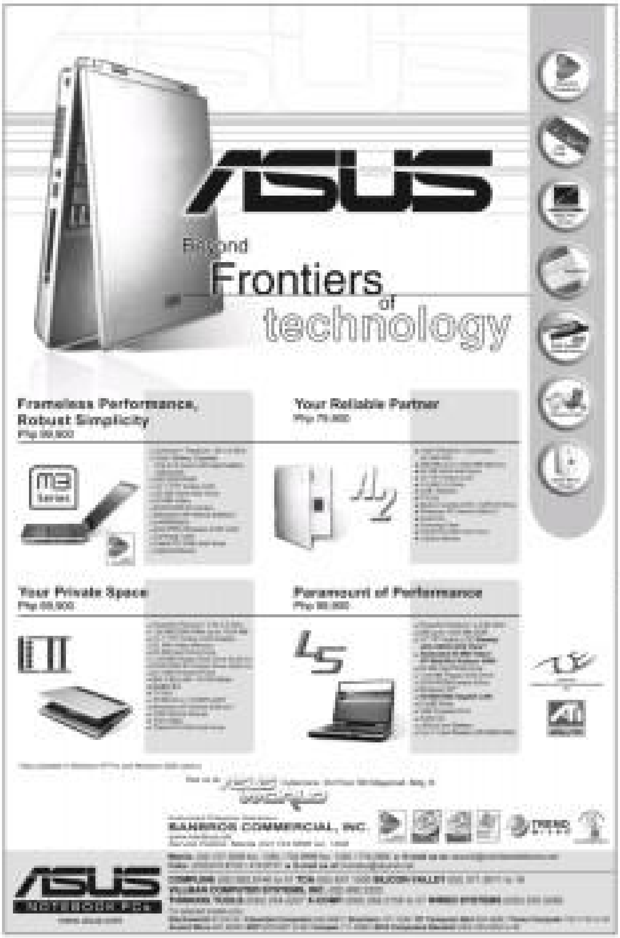
3 years later still no justice in Erap case, laments Chavit



5 solons join LP; one with 'blood' ties to party

The Daily Gospel

Supreme Court Doctrines



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS Monday

GETTING GOODS TO CUSTOMERS

Independent agents: Marketing alternative

By Myrna R. Co

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

Advantages of sales agents

Disadvantages of sales agents

Number of OFWs down, but remittances up

RP, Libya strengthen relationship

THE PHILIPPINES and Libya moved closer to forging bilateral ties with the signing last Friday of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishing the mechanism for annual meetings and consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and Libyan Ambassador [illegible] signed the MOU, which covers consultations on the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two nations in all fields in Southeast Asia and North Africa and other international issues of mutual interest.

Albert, in her remarks, cited the Philippines' long history of friendship with Libya. The two countries have marked 27 years of diplomatic relations.

In 1976, the Philippines concluded an agreement on economic, scientific, cultural and technical cooperation that established the Philippines-Libya Joint Government Commission.

Albert said the JGC would meet this year in the Libyan capital of Tripoli to discuss areas of mutual concern, including the promotion and protection of the welfare of Filipino workers in Libya.

"This would also be an excellent opportunity to identify ways by which we could increase the level of trade and other exchanges between our two countries," Albert said.

She said Libya has been an important partner in the Philippines' quest for peace in Mindanao and is one of the country's staunchest supporters in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). *Jerome Aning*

'If this is not campaigning...'



Gov't works to keep bird flu out



LTFRB looking for new carriers



Colon, thyroid cancer cases on the rise

By Blanche S. Rivera

MORE AND more Filipinos are suffering from cancer of the colon and thyroid compared to the past decade, data from the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) has shown.

Citing the 2,501 new cases of colon cancer recorded in the PCS Manila and Rizal cancer registries from 1993 to 1997, the group of experts noted that colon cancer was climbing the ranks of top cancer sites among Filipinos.

Moving up

The thyroid, which used to be the eighth leading cancer site, moved up to sixth place, while colon cancer jumped from seventh to fifth, accounting for 4.2 percent of all cancer cases among both men and women in the Philippines.

The PCS data also showed that colon cancer was slightly more prevalent among men, with 1,257 cases, than women, who recorded 1,244 cases.

More women

Thyroid cancer, however, was more prevalent among women, accounting for about 80 percent of all thyroid cancer cases in the country.

Breast and lung cancer continued to be the top disease sites in the Philippines, accounting for about 20 percent of all cases, especially with the rise in numbers of women who smoke.

Cancer Week

The Department of Health has declared National Cancer Consciousness Week beginning today with focus on the campaign against smoking.

The WORLD

Editor: Lorenzo B. Ziganay

Doctor says he has cloned, implanted human embryo

LONDON—A US fertility specialist said here Saturday he had implanted a cloned human embryo in a woman's womb, reigniting controversy over attempts to create the world's first cloned human.

The claims by Panayiotis Zavos were met with skepticism from the medical establishment and anger from politicians in Britain where the procedure, considered by many to be unethical and potentially dangerous, is illegal.

"We have implanted the first embryo two weeks ago," Zavos told a news conference, but he cautioned that there was only a 30-percent chance that the unnamed 35-year-old woman would become pregnant.

"We are waiting for the results this week end. We expect success but it could result in no pregnancy," he said.

The fertility specialist gave few details and no proof of the operation which he claimed involved the same process British scientists used to produce Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, in 1997.

Dolly's death in March 2003 at the slender age of six from arthritis underlined for some the risks associated with cloning, where other experiments in the field have often led to premature deaths and abnormalities.

"I do not have a pregnancy to announce. Stand by for one in three weeks," said Zavos who dropped the medical bombshell at a news conference in a central London hotel arranged to discuss an entirely separate cloning issue.

He said the process involving all embryo grown from skin cells from the woman's husband, had been filmed, and added that he would allow DNA testing to check his claims at a later date.

Zavos refused to give details of the woman's origin or the date of the implantation but confirmed the process did not take place in Britain, the United States or Europe.

British Health Secretary John Reid round all on the declared attempt to create the world's first cloned human baby as a "gross misuse of genetic science."

"It is illegal to clone a child in the UK. The government has already acted to stop this happening here," Reid said.

"We are one of the few countries in the world who have passed legislation to ban this possibility," he said, adding: "There will be no cloned babies in the UK while I am Secretary of State for Health."

A spokesperson for the Royal Society, Britain's national science academy said: "We remain extremely skeptical of the claims made" by Zavos.

"If and when he provides the evidence, I am sure scientists and doctors will look with interest.

"What is more worrying is, without being sure of any substance to the claims, many infertile couples may have their hopes falsely raised, which is regrettable," he said.

The spokesperson also accused Zavos of seeking publicity adding: "Scientific journals and conferences are the place to present your work—not at hugely theatrical press conferences." AFP

US to pull out troops from Seoul

SEOUL—The United States has agreed to pull all its troops out of the South Korean capital, raising security concerns in a city where North Korean nuclear programs persists, officials said Sunday.

Under the deal, which came at talks last week in Hawaii, about 7,000 US troops in Yongsan would move to a new base in Pyeongtaek, 70 km south of the capital, by the end of 2007, the defense ministry said.

The agreement, however, has to be approved by South Korea's parliament, which is controlled by opposition parties, it said.

A group of 120 conservative lawmakers issued a statement Sunday opposing the relocation plan and vowed to vote down a related bill in the 273-member National Assembly.

"President Roh Moo-hyun and his government must take all the responsibility for the security vacuum in socio-political areas," they said in a statement.

The presence of some 37,000 US troops in South Korea has been a source of anti-American protests because a number of them have been implicated in crimes.

But conservative groups and opposition politicians have opposed any changes to the strong American military presence and long-standing security ties with the United States. AFP

Vietnam seeks help in battle against bird flu

[illegible]

Singapore puts up seawater purifier

[illegible]

Pope calls on Jews, Muslims, Christians to work for peace

Thousands march vs headscarf la

WW II photos on Internet





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION



Recovery

EDITORIALS

Resignation

Blame NWRB for coming water shortage

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Post-Christmas Noels

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Bush has to get out of Iraq pronto

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

No error is too small

READERS' ADVOCATE



Raul J. Palabrica

Time is not on US side in nuclear dispute

NEWS ANALYSIS

George Gedda

In exchange for nuclear disarmament, North Korea would receive security assurances and economic benefits

AP

Only the paranoid survive?

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

A post-Christmas wish

Letters

Authenticity needs greater attention

Answers to 'road questions'

Meal allowances must be adjusted realistically

Posturing on the death penalty

FPJ supporters pray for peaceful polls

Who's afraid of FPJ? Not Joe de Venecia

PRIVATE EMISSION TEST CENTER OWNER'S ASSOCIATION (PETCOA), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNION OF MINDANAO AND VISAYAS PRIVATE EMISSION TEST CENTER OWNER'S ASSOCIATION (UMV-PETCOA)

"CLEAN AIR IS OUR BUSINESS, BECAUSE WE CARE..."

PETITION

URGING DOTC ASSISTANT SECRETARY ANNELI R. LONTOC
CHIEF, LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO)
TO IMMEDIATELY CLOSE DOWN AND SUSPEND THE
OPERATIONS OF LTO EMISSION TEST CENTER IN DAVAO CITY,
REFRAIN FROM FURTHER CONDUCTING EMISSION TESTS OF VEHICLES IN THE AREA DUE TO RAMPANT
GRAFT AND CORRUPTION AND TECHNICAL INCOMPETENCE

Gov't secures power plants in Negros, Quezon

[illegible]

Paying campaign fees to NPA 'treason,' poll bets warned

[illegible]



BLESSINGS
People from all walks of life raise their hands to receive Señor Sto. Niño's blessing during the morning children's Mass at the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño in Cebu City.

Soldiers fielded for today's Lumban feast

[illegible]

Group finds remains of 2 top NPA rebels in Quirino

[illegible]

American, German accused of abusing 13 kids

[illegible]

ROUNDUP

Rafts for Kalinga tourism

[illegible]

Fire guts chapel

[illegible]

Bulacan trader shot

[illegible]

9 wounded in blast

[illegible]

Blast damages store

[illegible]

Agri firm's plane crashes

[illegible]

Wanted man killed

[illegible]

15 areas get $3.7M from EC, UNDP

COTABATO CITY—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission (EC) recently signed an agreement for an 18-month rehabilitation project in war-torn areas in Southern Philippines this year. [illegible]

Australia funds 16 projects

CALAMBA CITY—A project aimed at developing the informal sector in solid waste management in Los Baños, Laguna is one of the 16 pro-poor projects [illegible]



Enrile says FPJ can be the new Marcos

Comelec hearing

Open to public

Great warrior

K-4 candidates get acting tips . . .

Tutorial

Campaign colors

FPJ paid less income tax in '02 after fall in earnings

Top 20 Show Biz Taxpayers



1. Sharon



2. Aga



3. Dolphy

Tax evaders

Aga Muhlach

Practice

Executions on the rise across Asia



LETHAL injection chamber in the Philippines' National Bilibid Prison.

China leads

Japan and Indonesia

India and Thailand

Afghanistan and Korea

Pope's help ...

Amina banks on old family network, FPJ

Muslim representative

Poe's choice

Star-struck candidate

Car bomb kills 20 in Baghdad

Provisional gov't

Reward offered

US firm targets cynics

Local execs told to lead water drive

Car wash

Cutback

FIRST 15 DAYS OF THE YEAR

P105M in assets lost in 64 fires

How to prevent fires at home



Taiwanese slain in Valenzuela rob

'Help us bury Allan,' ma begs

Single file loading on Edsa

'Fire kids' now back in school

Beginning

METRO



MORE and more students are now filling up the classrooms at the Baseco Elementary School, leaving behind the bitter memory of last week's fire.

'Fire kids' now back in school



NO MORE scavenging for these children in Baseco as school beckons.

By Tara Quismundo

Social worker helping Baseco refugees slain



WHAT'S INSIDE



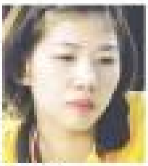





■ Rockets halt Timberwolves /A26

ASIAN BOWLING TOUR

Del Rosario, Granger top S'pore tilt


DEL ROSARIO


GRANGER

SINGAPORE—The Philippines dominated the Aviva Asian Bowling Tour Grand Slam championships here yesterday as Liza del Rosario and Purvis Granger downed their respective rivals in the finals at the National Service Resort and Country Club here.

RP boxers get passing grade



Ildefonso stays with SMB for ₱15M

Rockets halt Timberwolves

Pistons make it 12 straight



A happy emergency

BARE EYE

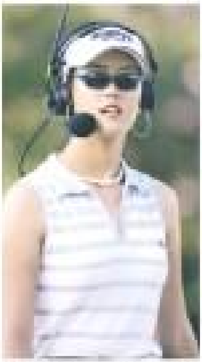


Recah Trinidad

Aguilar scores 'moto' double kill

World Slasher Cup gets going at Big Dome

Gorres fights Mangubat Feb. 20

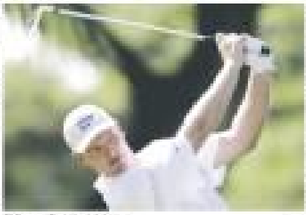


Wie simply amazing in Hawaii tilt

Filipino lawyer to Fifa court

SONY OPEN

Frazar leads Els by 1 shot



Price wins NZ tilt



Agassi launches defense today

Hardenne also plays as Aussie Open starts



MELBOURNE—Andre Agassi will face a fired-up local player and a partisan night crowd when he launches his Australian Open title defense on Monday.

Colts-Pats duel unfolds at Foxboro

Eagles look for respect

A Lancer for lucky Alabang-Mango Tee entry

Don't count me out—Parica

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

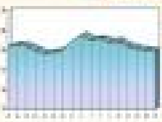
Badminton clinic at UST a success



BUSINESS

Meralco ruling alarms foreign investors

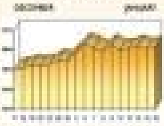
CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen to resume climb

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



BSP seeks power over bank buyers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas wants to secure a legal mandate to scrutinize the buyers of bank equities prior to any transfer of ownership and to expel any shareholder if needed to protect the interests of depositors and the general public.

In a press briefing on Friday BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the institution had no authority to approve or disapprove share purchase deals—such as the sale by state-owned pension fund Social Security System of its 28-percent stake in Equitable PCI Bank to Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

He said the BSP's role would come in only in determining whether BDO had adequate capital to pursue the acquisition.

Buenaventura said he even favored the possible merger of BDO with Equitable PCI to create the second biggest bank in the country.

"It's okay if the buyers are of a stature that is acceptable to us. If not, there's no prior approval needed even if the buyers were a group of people who are of unsavory character. It becomes fait accompli," he lamented.

"The only thing we can do—if the owners are not acceptable to us—is to review their nominees for directors and officers. Legally, we don't have the power to disapprove the sale," he stressed.

For instance, Buenaventura cited the entry of Japanese cult leader Junko Ogami in the defunct Urban Development Bank and of the Ilagan group in Prudential Bank. Both gained notoriety in domestic pyramiding scandals.

Urban Development Bank is now under liquidation while the Ilagan group's remaining shares in any publicly listed company like Prudential were frozen by the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The increase in the BSP's powers to control such deals was among the amendments being sought by the BSP to the New Central Bank Act. The amendment is seen as necessary to expand its supervisory powers to be able to intervene immediately in serious situations, which may include replacement and disqualification of officers and directors or closure of the banks to protect the interests of depositors and the general public.

SEC eyes custodian for securities

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is studying the proposal of requiring brokers to hire a third-party custodian of securities, a move that is seen to address the common problem of lost securities and to improve services to stock investors.

According to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, the proposal is being discussed by the commission with the Philippine Stock Exchange.

She said requiring brokers to hire a securities custodian would also make it easier for the government to track down those that were operating undercapitalized and therefore posed a high risk to investors.

Bautista said the proposal was in line with the SEC's move to intensify its monitoring functions of brokerage firms and minimize cases of mishandling of stock investments.

The proposal to require brokers to hire a custodian of securities is similar to the surety order by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for banks to hire a custodian of securities in order to improve the handling of securities.

"We are trying to synchronize it with the central bank," she said in a press briefing last week.

Bautista also said the SEC had asked external auditors of brokers to check whether the shares placed by investors in them were still intact.

Meralco ...

From page B1

ERC to be guaranteed.

- corporate governance, key reforms were honored; and
- distribution and generation utilities were allowed to earn reasonable investment returns to improve credit standing.

"All that is jeopardized if decisions of the ERC—and the Supreme Court—are politicized," Sidhu-Smith said.

"In our view the ERC's decision on Meralco's rate increase must be implemented without delay as it will benefit the economy and Meralco's shareholders in the long run."

Quedancor income up

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. has doubled its net income last year to P50 million from the previous year's P25 million.

Quedancor president and chief executive Reynaldo Bantullo said in an interview that earnings grew after commercial banks poured in more resources to the agency's lending programs.

These banks include Allied Banking Corp., the Philippine Veterans Bank, government-owned United Coconut Planters Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines, allowing them to comply with the agri-agra law which requires banks to set aside funds for lending to agriculture programs.

Quedancor, in turn, used the funds to re-lend to thousands of small farmers, fisherfolk, food vendors and rural and urban poor borrowers.

Mystery of the missing exports

No Free Lunch



Cielito F. Habito

Understated figures?

Missing the boat?

Capturing the data

SMC packaging unit seeks BOI incentives

Security Bank offers ₱2.5B in Tier 2 notes

BSP lifts rule on banks' back-up sites

Cebu Pacific slashes fares

Hawaii Hide-O

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

$350 to West Coast

3 of Philippines' Strongest Rural Banks Consolidate

Tried and Trusted Institution

A Mindanao-wide Network

Growth in the Face of Adversity

A Banking Revolution in the Making

DTI pushes liberalization of mine sector

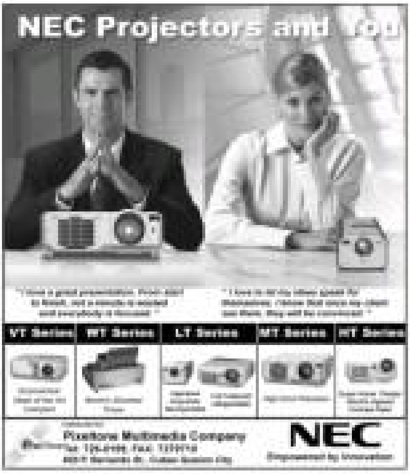
By Michelle V. Remo

The SSS: Biggest money lost ever-Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General





Chinese firm keen on PNOC's P3-B coal project

Kexim commits new funds for Misamis airport



BSP relaxes rules on FCDU loan conversion

NSC bidder nearing deal with creditors

Pharmaceutical firm restructures RP operations



RP considering new bond float before elections

By Doris C. Dumlao

[illegible]

Cocktales . . .

[illegible]

Heard through the grapevine

[illegible]

Arts & Design LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso
Associate Editor: Lito Zulueta

How advertising debases our vistas

Heritage is not for the advertising industry to take away

PRIDE OF PLACE



Augusto F. Villalon

HAVE you tried looking around lately? Look at the urbanscape that once upon a time differentiated one Philippine city from another. Look at the breathtaking landscape of our Philippine countryside. Those sweeping vistas are gone now, memories from our past. What happened? During the long time that we were not looking carefully, we allowed some people to trash those cherished vistas.

[illegible]

Gone

[illegible]



GIANT billboards destroy the vista at the Guadalupe Bridge crossing to Makati-Mandaluyong.



MOBILE phone ads are plastered on just about anything, including trees.



MOBILE phone ads mar the façade of a building which is otherwise a model in conservation and reuse.





THE NIÑO as farmer



Santo Niño goes global









Radiant yellows in hope of golden new year



"UNTITLED"



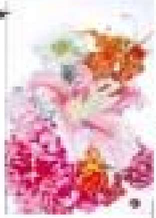
"GREEN Gold"



Malang marks 76th birthday with exhibit











Visual splendor in commercial art



UP Mindanao vice chancellor Ricardo Nolasco (left) and chancellor Ricardo de Ungria (right), shown here with FWWPP president Baubie Abueva, are organizing the academe in Davao City for Education Revolution activities this year



FROM left: Ayen Tolentino, FWWPP program officer assigned in Negros Occidental; Department of Education Adopt-A-School Secretariat director Ara Fahardo; Davao City councilor Mabel Acosta; Yvette Bunga, Acosta's chief of staff; and DepEd Region XI director Ebenezer P. Kudon, who supports a more concentrated development effort for public education in Region XI for 2004

The Education Revolution forges on in 2004

By Baubi Hernandez
Contributor

THE FOUNDATION for Worldwide People Power—together with everyone who believes that education is the best weapon against poverty—is looking forward to a more widespread Education Revolution in 2004.

In Sagay City, Negros Occidental, FWWPP program officer Ayen Tolentino reports that Vicente M. Flores, president of the Sagay Jaycees, will be adopting four public schools to highlight the induction of their officers in January 2004.

Ayen also says that Nicanor S. Alpasan, president of the Organization for International, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, will adopt eight Sagay public schools in 2004, namely Makiling Primary School under school head Mario Villa, Magaling Elementary School headed by Proter Tabion, Gen. Luna Elementary School under Feliciano Barrera, Sanchez Extension High School under Fedeserindo Villaosis, Tadtoc Balqua Elementary School headed by Hermando Aquino, Campo Bagu Elementary School under Wilfredo Calvo, and Campo Bagu Extension High School under Ma. Theresa Pangpang, and the Sil Aguilar School also under Fedesrindo Villaosis.

Over at Cagayan de Oro City, FWWPP program officer Elsie Ulbas says it's all systems go for the Education Revolution this 2004. Capitol University is ready to spearhead the Education Revolution, highlighted by the adoption of two public schools, namely the St. John Elementary School in Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City and the Taytay Elementary School located in El Salvador, Misamis Oriental.

Further down south, the Davao City local government recently held a consultative meeting with business groups, civic organizations and the academe to discuss how they could maximize resources for education-related development activities. DepEd Region XI director Ebenezer P. Kudon said the DepEd welcomes the initiatives of the private sector and the local government to improve public education.

Councilor Mabel Acosta has been in the midst of various organizational activities aimed at relaunching the Adopt-A-School program for Davao City. Recently she sent her chief of staff Yvette Bunga to coordinate with the FWWPP and the DepEd Adopt-A-School secretariat to iron out the details.

Meanwhile, UP Mindanao chancellor Ricky de Ungria and vice chancellor Ricky Nolasco have been equally busy. They are at the forefront of the Education Revolution for Region XI. Over at Davao City, the two professors are finalizing plans to organize a consortium of colleges and universities to act as a clearinghouse and catalyst for the Education Revolution in the area.

Up here in Southern Luzon, FWWPP program officer Shirley Bagasingan has been busy coordinating the adoption programs of eight public schools in Lagpon with the CBK Power Company Ltd. In the last quarter of 2003, CBK chose to make the Education Revolution its corporate social responsibility program.

Shirley is also organizing the parents and community members of Sitio Taliga Elementary School in Lagpon.

Reviewing the Mission's national coordinator Dr. Evelyn Mejillano says the activities planned for 2004 are all designed to bring the message of social transformation through education to a greater number of teachers, with the help of the Philippine Association for Teacher Education.

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power fervently prays that 2004 will be a year of enlightenment for all of us. Long live the Education Revolution!

The author is the executive director of Foundation for Worldwide People Power.



Tracking the sound of silence

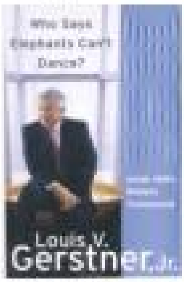


Tanghalang Pilipino is set to mount Sri Lankan playwright Ruwanthie De Chickera's award-winning theater piece, "Middle of Silence"

Music in the time of SARS



Readings for January



Tracking the sound . . .

